

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00326 122038Z

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4496

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 0326

FROM USREP ICAO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJ: ICAO - NICARAGUA RE SENEGAL PROPOSAL

REF: MONTREAL 0292

1. NICARAGUA COUNCIL REP HAS ADVISED USREP THAT HIS GOVT (SOMOZA) HAS ASKED HIM TO EXPLAIN HIS ABSTENTION VOTE. FOLLOWING IS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE HOPE THAT IT CAN BE PASSED TO GON APPROPRIATELY.

2. NICARAGUA WAS ONE OF THE KEY COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE DEFEAT OF THE SENEGAL PROPOSAL. NICREP WAS CONSTANTLY IN TOUCH WITH USREP AT ALL TIMES. WAS NOT ONLY COOPERATIVE BUT IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR HIS EXCEPTIONALLY HELPFUL PARTICIPATION.

3. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO HIM DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AT OUTSET THAT CENTRAL AMERICA COULD NOT EXPECT TO BE REELECTED TO COUNCIL IN SEPT IF THEY OPPOSED SENEGAL PROPOSAL. (HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING "US PUPPET"). NONETHELESS, COL SILVA ADVISED USREP THAT AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE HE WOULD HAVE TO OPPOSE AND VOTE AGAINST AND HAD RECOMMENDED SUCH POSITION TO HIS GOVT PRIOR TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS MANAGUA.

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PAGE 02 MONTRE 00326 122038Z

4. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT STATUTORY MAJORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DEFEAT PROPOSAL, USREP AND PRES/COUNCIL BOTH ADVISED NICREP TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ABSTAINING IN ORDER PROTECT COUNCIL SEAT.

5. RECENTLY NICARAGUA HAS BECOME PARTICIPATING MEMBER OF NEW LA BLOC IN ICAO COUNCIL. USREP CONSIDERS IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT SUCH BLOC PARTICIPATION BE ENCOURAGED (FOR OBVIOUS REASONS). IN THIS CASE, IT WAS CRUCIAL.

6. AT LAST MINUTE (LITERALLY) LA BLOC CONSIDERED DEALING WITH AFRICANS FOR MODIFICATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO ABANDON "ABSTENTIONS" AND VOTE "FOR". NICARAGUA REP REFUSED AND MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR BLOC TO SWING AND GUARANTEE PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL.

7. HAD A SIMPLE MAJORITY AGAINST PROPOSAL BEEN EVIDENT, COL SILVA WOULD IMMEDIATELY HAVE VOTED WITH THE US AND UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION BLOC TO DEFEAT PROPOSAL. THE STATUTORY REQUEST ALLOWED LA BLOC TO PROHIBIT PASSAGE BY ABSTAINING, WHILE PROTECTING ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR THE ASSEMBLY, FOR REELECTION TO COUNCIL, AND PRESERVING ITS INFLUENCE THROUGH SOLIDARITY.

8. IN OPINION USREP NICARAGUA ROLE WAS OUTSTANDING DIPLOMACY WHICH WAS AT ALL TIMES CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH USREP.

FYI. NICREP REPRESENTS SIX CA COUNTRIES. REPRESENTATION WILL ROTATE TO COSTA RICA AT NEXT ASSEMBLY. END FYI.
HARPER

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